



Emergency Plan for Small Animals



Generally, people are reluctant to abandon their pets. If they are unable to leave the area, many prefer to weather the storm at home rather than leave their pets. This is particularly true of the elderly.

Facilities caring for evacuated pets must be able to store at least 4 days of food, water and medical supplies. The logical facilities for this type of care are veterinary clinics, private kennels and other private agencies, such as obedience clubs. These groups should be organized and given their role in the plan. Kennels, clubs and veterinary clinics are the ideal groups to educate people on caring for their pets in the event of a disaster.

If people reside in a flood plain or mobile home and must evacuate, they should have appropriate carriers on hand that are large enough for the animal to stand up and turn around in. Owners also need leashes, collars, identification, medications and muzzles if necessary. The carriers can become a safe kennel for the animal at an animal holding facility.

People must not attempt out-of-county evacuations unless they leave at least 72 hours (3 days) before the disaster.

A 2-week supply of food and medications for each animal should be stored in the house, in a watertight container. Animal first aid kits should be kept, including drugs for pain and tranquilization.

All animals should have both collars and neckbands permanently marked with appropriate identification and pertinent medical information in case the animal is lost during the disaster.

All animals and the property itself should be fully photographed at the beginning of each disaster season. Take identification for yourself and all animals so you can use it for identification purposes when you return to the area and want to claim your animals at a holding facility.

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Document DH-019,
IFAS Disaster Handbook for
Extension Agents
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Service for the benefit of
Florida's citizens)

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Mobile home tie-down rods should be purchased and stored to be used to tie down horse trailers, trucks, tractors, etc. Tied down equipment should be placed far from trees.

Boats, canoes, rowboats, etc. should be filled with water to significantly reduce the chance of being blown around. This will also provide a source of water for animals after the disaster.

Chlorine in sufficient amounts to purify water for family and animals should be obtained prior to the disaster. (Two drops of chlorine to one quart of water; let stand for one-half hour.) If you have a pool, have enough chlorine to shock it every few days. Electricity will be off, and the pump will not be working. If clean, pool water is usable for many things.

Move all power tools, chain saw, fuel, wire cutters, air compressor or tank, duct tape, ropes, halters and lead ropes away from the house before the storm. Label all hazardous material tanks on the property, and if possible, chain them securely to a structure.